

PSRG RMP Seminar
Portland, OR February 25, 2004
Common Questions

1. When does a facility need to register their RMP with the state?

If a facility is located in the States of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, or Washington, there is no need to submit a copy of the Risk Management Plan to the State. Only the EPA submittal is required.

2. How can I determine if my processes are collocated in terms of being a single process?

This issue is facility specific and so please review the industry specific Offsite Consequence Analysis Guidance developed by EPA or contact the RMP Coordinator for your Region.

3. What are the program requirement differences among RMP Level 1, 2 and 3?

Program 1	Program 2	Program 3
Worst-case release analysis	Worst-case release analysis	Worst-case release analysis
	Alternative Release Analysis	Alternative Release Analysis
5-year accident history	5-year accident history	5-year accident history
	Documentation management system	Documentation management system
Prevention Program		
Certify no additional prevention steps needed	Safety Information	Process Safety Information
	Hazard Review	Hazard Review
	Operating Procedures	Operating Procedures
	Training	Training
	Maintenance	Maintenance
	Incident Investigation	Incident Investigation
	Compliance Audit	Compliance Audit
		Management of Change
		Pre-Startup Review
		Contractors
		Employee Participation
		Hot Work Permits
Emergency Response Program		
Coordinate with local responders	Develop plan and program (if applicable) and coordinate with local responders	Develop plan and program (if applicable) and coordinate with local responders
Submit One Risk Management Plan for All Covered Processes		

4. Does the 5-year accident history only involve accidents involving the RMP chemical?

No, the 5-year accident history requires the owner or operator of a stationary source to record information in their RMP on ALL accidental releases from covered processes in the past five years that resulted in deaths, injuries, or significant property damage on site, or known offsite deaths, injuries, evacuations, sheltering in place, property damage, or environmental damage. This requirement includes the release of ANY chemical from a covered process, NOT just the release of a regulated substance from that covered process.

5. Is air dispersion modeling results required as part of the 5-year accident history?

No, air dispersion modeling is not required for the 5-year accident history, although it may be useful in analyzing accidental releases during incident investigation.

6. If an accident resulted in the permanent shut-down of a process, does the accident still need to be included in the 5-year accident history?

Yes, if an accident involved a covered process and it happened within the last 5 years, the accident must be reported as part of the 5-year accident history.

7. Does the compliance audit cover the entire RMP or just an element such as the Prevention Program?

The compliance audit covers the entire RMP, which includes:

- Hazard Assessment
- Prevention Program
- Emergency Response

8. Does notifying the EPA of a change of ownership require resubmitting the entire RMP or an update?

A RMP correction to change ownership can be done using RMP*Submit without resubmitting the entire RMP. Just include the necessary changes in RMP*Submit and submit the diskette to the EPA RMP Reporting Center.

9. Will a facility need to resubmit their RMP when the new rule takes effect even if it resubmitted recently?

All facilities must at least update their RMP's to come into compliance with the new rules by June 21, 2004. If a facility recently resubmitted a RMP, then only the update is required. However, many facilities will still need to resubmit for their upcoming 5-year anniversary. If a facility chooses to resubmit their entire RMP, i.e., to avoid two submittals (RMP update and 5-year RMP resubmittal), a facility can do so, but it will change the facility's anniversary date.

10. Is the rule update comment period still open?

No, the comment period for the 2004 rule change is closed.

11. What will the anniversary date be for facilities after the rule change?

A facility's anniversary date will not change, but a facility must update their RMP by June 21, 2004 to comply with the new rule.

12. What is the EPA's review process of facilities' RMP's?

The EPA reporting center receives the disks submitted by facilities and then carries out a completeness review of the data. EPA does not review each facility's RMP at the time of submission. EPA may request a copy of the RMP or may review the RMP during an audit or an inspection.

13. How does a facility get a copy of their RMP?

A facility must contact the RMP Coordinator for that facility's Region and request a copy of the facility's RMP. The RMP Coordinator will then generate a disk from the EPA RMP database using a program called RMP*submitgen. A disk with the RMP will be mailed to the facility.

14. How does the EPA define "evacuate" in relation to releases and containment?

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) uses the term "evacuations" in relation to the 5-year accident history. The word "evacuate" implies that either personnel or members of the general public are relocated to an area beyond the impacted facility.

15. How can a facility get RMP compliance assistance?

The EPA Regional Office would be happy to provide assistance by responding to specific questions concerning RMP compliance issues.

16. Does the EPA have plans to provide more outreach assistance to facilities rather than enforcement?

The EPA is committed to conducting outreach to regulated facilities, such as the seminar that took place in Portland, Oregon. The EPA will be hosting additional training opportunities and seminars to help facilities comply with proposed RMP regulations.

17. To what extent does the EPA and OSHA cooperate in their compliance roles?

The EPA and OSHA work together whenever possible and feasible to ensure both programs are being implemented in a consistent and coordinated manner. Both agencies often share information regarding compliance rates, facility information, and other issues so that the RMP and PSM programs work together to protect human health and the environment.

18. Do farmers selling ammonia to farmers need an RMP?

Wholesale dealers of anhydrous ammonia, such as CO-OPs are required to comply with the RMP regulations. However, farmers are not regulated by the RMP regulations, unless they are serving as a wholesale dealer.

19. What has been the effect of Homeland Security on the public knowledge and availability of a facility's RMP information?

All RMPs have been removed from the internet. The public can still view a facility's RMP at federal Reading Rooms that are located at each EPA Regional Office and US Department of Justice offices. The 2004 rules include provisions to not include a discussion of the offsite consequence analysis in the Executive Summary, as was previously requested in the original RMP submission.

20. Do Local/State representatives accompany the EPA during inspections?

Representatives from the State and/or local government are usually invited to join EPA inspectors during site visits, when available.

21. How do I get my facility a copy of LandView which can be used for population estimates?

LandView can be ordered by visiting the US Census Bureau website at:

<http://www.census.gov/mp/www/Tempcat/LV6.html>

22. When will the new RMP rule be released?

The 2004 rule changes to the Risk Management Program are scheduled to be released toward the end of March 2004.

23. Will a facility's report of a release trigger a site visit from the EPA?

EPA considers the accidental release of a chemical to be very serious and thus, there is high possibility that the EPA will conduct an inspection after a release is reported. Of course the EPA can and does perform random inspections even without the notification of a release.

24. Does a facility call to 911 also constitute completing proper CERCLA notification requirements?

No, the facility must make all the proper emergency contacts as required per Section 304 of the Emergency Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).

25. What are the emergency contact numbers?

Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management	800-478-2337
Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS)	800-452-0311
Idaho Bureau of Hazardous Materials	800-632-8000
Washington Emergency Management Division	800-258-5990
National Response Center	800-424-8802
EPA Region 10 Spill Line	206-553-1263

note: all numbers are 24 hour lines

26. How do I get my facility a copy of ALOHA air modeling software?

The NOAA Website for CAMEO/ALOHA/MARPLOT software is:

<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/cameo/intro.html>